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To "hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov" <hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov>

Subject Humpback Whale Management Plan

Aloha. My name is Christiane Butac and I have lived on the island of Kaua'i my whole life. I speak for my entire family when I say that this plan is very ill-advised. First of all, the 'Hawaiian' Humpback Whale is NOT native to Hawai'i and neither is the 'Hawaiian' Monk Seal. The Humpback Whale is nomadic. Their REAL home is in the arctic. They only come here during winter months to give birth and raise their young. After that, they go back to the arctic circle. The Monk Seal was introduced by foreigners and have made Hawai'i their home.

To us, it seems like we're using these animals for more tourism by saying that they are native to Hawai'i when they are not.

If this plan is put into action, it might be fine for a couple days but then a monk seal decides to sunbathe on a popular beach. The beach gets shutdown for however long the seal is there. Then, when people start to notice that the same seal keeps going to the same beach, that beach gets shut down permanently. This scenario can easily happen to all of our beaches and when that does happen, we will LOSE our tourism because no one will want to come to Hawai'i if they cannot enjoy our beaches.

If we lose our beaches because this scenario happens, it will hurt our future generations because the Hawaiian culture is being taken away. The ocean is Hawai'i's life source. And by taking it away, the culture will be lost forever and all we have are stereotypes of a great culture.

Furthermore, this plan should NOT be put into action and needs to be thought through. People may think that something might be saved, but the bigger picture is that something much more precious will be lost.